

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled) A method of aligning an intracorneal inlay relative to a cornea for the purpose of correcting refractive error in an eye, comprising the steps of
marking at least one axis on the outer surface of the cornea,
separating a portion of the cornea, forming a first anterior facing surface and a second posterior facing surface,
positioning an inlay having at least one axis indicated on the surface thereof between the first and second surfaces, and
aligning the at least one axis on the inlay with the at least one axis on the surface of the cornea.
2. (canceled) A method according to claim 1, wherein
the marking step includes marking at least five axes on the outer surface of the cornea.
3. (canceled) A method according to claim 2, wherein
the marking step includes marking the outer surface of the cornea with a marking tool having at least five axes thereon.
4. (canceled) A method according to claim 3, wherein
the marking step includes positioning the marking tool adjacent the outer surface of the cornea and marking a line along each of the five axes of the marking tool.

5. (canceled) A method according to claims 1, wherein
the separating step includes separating a portion of the cornea to form a flap thereon, the flap attached to the cornea at an outer peripheral area thereof.
6. (canceled) A method according to claim 5, further comprising the step of
pivoting the flap about the area attached to the cornea to expose the first anterior facing surface of the cornea.
7. (canceled) A method according to claim 6, wherein
the positioning step includes positioning an inlay having a removable, pliable sheet overlying the inlay indicating the at least one axis.
8. (canceled) A method according to claim 7, further comprising the steps of
marking the main optical axis of the eye on the outer surface of the cornea prior to
marking the at least one axis on the surface of the cornea,
marking the main optical axis of the eye on the first anterior facing surface of the cornea,
and
marking the first anterior facing surface of the cornea with at least five axes in about the same orientation as the markings on the surface of the cornea.

9. (canceled) A method according to claim 8, further comprising the steps of
repositioning the flap over the inlay,
aligning the markings on the outer surface of the eye and the marking on the first anterior
facing surface with the marking on the removable, pliable sheet, and
removing the removable, pliable sheet overlying the inlay.
10. (canceled) A method according to claim 9, wherein
the positioning step includes positioning an inlay adapted to correct astigmatic error in
the eye between the first and second surface.
11. (canceled) A method according to claim 1, wherein
the positioning step includes positioning a ring shaped inlay between the first and second
surfaces.
12. (canceled) A method according to claim 11, wherein
the positioning step includes positioning a ring shaped inlay having at least two separable
portions between the first and second surfaces.
13. (canceled) A method according to claim 1, wherein
the positioning step includes positioning an inlay adapted to correct astigmatic error in
the eye between the first and second surface.
14. (canceled) A method according to claim 1, wherein
the positioning step includes positioning the inlay between the first and second surfaces
using a holding tool.

15. (canceled) A method of aligning an intracorneal inlay relative to a cornea for the purpose of correcting refractive error in an eye, comprising the steps of
separating a portion of the cornea, forming a first anterior facing surface and a second posterior facing surface,
marking at least one of the first and second surfaces with a first axis,
positioning an inlay having a second axis indicated on the surface thereof between the first and second surfaces, and
aligning the second axis with the first axis.
16. (canceled) A method according to claim 15, further comprising the step of
marking at least four additional axes on at least one of the first and second surfaces of the cornea.
17. (canceled) A method according to claim 16, wherein
the marking step includes marking at least one of the first and second surfaces of the cornea with a marking tool having at least five axes thereon.
18. (canceled) A method according to claim 17, wherein
the marking step includes positioning the marking tool adjacent the first surface of the cornea and marking a line along each of the five axes of the marking tool.
19. (canceled) A method according to claims 15, wherein
the separating step includes separating a portion of the cornea to form a flap thereon, the flap attached to an area of the cornea at the circumference thereof.
20. (canceled) A method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of

pivoting the flap about the area attached to the cornea to expose the first anterior facing surface of the cornea.

21. (canceled) A method according to claim 20, wherein
the positioning step includes positioning an inlay having a removable, pliable sheet overlying the inlay indicating the second axis between the first and second surfaces.
22. (canceled) A method according to claim 21, further comprising the steps of
marking the main optical axis of the eye on the external surface of the cornea,
marking the external surface of the cornea with a third axis in about the same orientation as the markings on the first anterior surface, and
marking the main optical axis of the eye on at least one of the first and second surfaces of the cornea prior to marking the first axis on the at least one of the first and second surfaces of the cornea.
23. (canceled) A method according to claim 22, further comprising the steps of
repositioning the flap over the inlay,
aligning the first axis and the third axis with the second axis, and
removing the pliable sheet overlying the inlay.
24. (canceled) A method according to claim 23, wherein
the positioning step includes positioning an inlay adapted to correct astigmatic error in the eye between the first and second surfaces.
25. (canceled) A method according to claim 15, wherein
the positioning step includes positioning a ring shaped inlay between the first and second surfaces.
26. (canceled) A method according to claim 25, wherein

the positioning step includes positioning a ring shaped inlay having at least two separable portions between the first and second surfaces.

27. (canceled) A method according to claim 15, wherein

the positioning step includes positioning an inlay adapted to correct astigmatic error in the eye between the first and second surface.

28. (Currently Amended) An inlay for correcting the refractive error in the cornea of the eye, the cornea having a first exposed corneal surface and a second corneal surface, the inlay, comprising:

a first surface for placement onto ~~an~~ the first exposed corneal surface ~~of the cornea,~~

a second surface opposite the first surface, and

a removable, pliable sheet of material positioned directly adjacent ~~overlying~~ the second surface, said sheet overlying and conforming to the second surface and having markings thereon for accurately positioning the inlay on the first exposed corneal surface ~~of the cornea.~~

29. (Original) An inlay according to claim 28, wherein

said markings on said removable sheet are at least ten radial axes extending from about the center of the inlay in a direction of the periphery of the inlay.

30. (Original) An inlay according to claim 28, wherein

said inlay is asymmetric for the purpose of correcting astigmatic error in the eye.

31. (Currently Amended) An inlay according to claim 28, wherein

said inlay is transparent, so that said markings can be aligned with markings ~~on the~~ surface of the first exposed corneal surface ~~portion of the cornea.~~

32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) An inlay according to claim 28, wherein
said inlay is pliable and is adapted to be positioned between the first and second corneal
surfaces ~~of the cornea~~.

34. (Currently Amended) An inlay according to claim 33, wherein
said markings on said removable sheet include radial markings and are adapted to align
the inlay with markings on at least one of said first exposed and second corneal surfaces ~~of said~~
~~cornea~~.

35. (Currently Amended) An inlay according to claim 28, wherein
said markings on said removable sheet are radial markings and are adapted to align with a
positioning tool to facilitate proper positioning of the inlay on the first exposed corneal surface
~~of the cornea~~.

36. (Currently Amended) An inlay according to claim 28, wherein
said inlay has markings thereon, said markings including include a mark on the center of
the inlay and at least two radial axes extending from the center of the inlay in a direction toward
the periphery of the inlay, and said markings are adapted to align with respective markings on at
least one of said first exposed and second corneal ~~the surfaces of the cornea~~.

37. (Currently Amended) An inlay for correcting refractive error in the cornea of an ~~an~~ the eye,
the cornea having a first exposed corneal surface and a second corneal surface, the inlay,
comprising:

a first surface and a second surface, at least one of said first and second surfaces having a at least one removable marking ~~markings~~ thereon being extendable along ~~that indicates extend~~ ~~along~~ at least one radial axis thereof, said at least one inlay markings being adapted to align ~~aligning~~ with a corresponding marking on at least one of the first and second corneal surfaces ~~of the cornea~~; and

said at least one removable marking being disposed on a removable sheet of material directly overlying the second surface.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Currently Amended) An inlay according to claim 38 ~~37~~, wherein
said at least one markings on said removable sheet includes at least ten radial axes
extending from about the center of the inlay in a direction of the periphery of the inlay.

40. (Currently Amended) An inlay according to claim 38 ~~37~~, wherein
said at least one markings on said removable sheet includes at least one radial markings
and said at least one marking is ~~are~~ adapted to align with a positioning tool to facilitate proper
positioning of the inlay on the first exposed corneal surface ~~of the cornea~~.

41. (Previously Presented) An inlay according to claim 37, wherein
said inlay is asymmetric for the purpose of correcting astigmatic error in the eye.

42. (Currently Amended) An inlay according to claim 37, wherein
said inlay is transparent, so that said at least one markings on said inlay can be aligned
with said corresponding said at least one marking ~~markings~~ on the first exposed corneal surface
~~of the cornea~~.

43. (Currently Amended) An inlay according to claim 37 ~~38~~, wherein
said inlay and said removable sheet of material are is pliable and ~~are~~ is adapted to be
positioned between the first and second corneal surfaces ~~of the cornea~~.
44. (Currently Amended) An inlay according to claim 37, wherein
said at least one markings includes a mark on the center of the inlay and at least two
radial axes extending from the center of the inlay in a direction toward the periphery of the inlay,
and said at least one markings are adapted to align with respective markings on the first and
second corneal surfaces ~~of the cornea~~.
45. (New) An inlay for correcting the refractive error in the cornea of the eye, the cornea
having a first exposed corneal surface and a second corneal surface, the inlay, comprising:
a first surface for placement onto the first exposed corneal surface,
a second surface opposite the first surface, and
a removable, transparent, pliable sheet of material positioned directly adjacent overlying
the second surface, said sheet overlying and conforming to the second surface and having
markings thereon for accurately positioning the inlay on the first exposed corneal surface.
46. (New) An inlay according to claim 45, wherein
said markings on said removable sheet are at least ten radial axes extending from about
the center of the inlay in a direction of the periphery of the inlay.
47. (New) An inlay according to claim 45, wherein
said inlay is asymmetric for the purpose of correcting astigmatic error in the eye.

48. (New) An inlay according to claim 45, wherein
said inlay is transparent, so that said markings can be aligned with markings on the first exposed corneal surface.
49. (New) An inlay according to claim 45, wherein
said inlay is pliable and is adapted to be positioned between the first and second corneal surfaces.
50. (New) An inlay according to claim 49, wherein
said markings on said removable sheet include radial markings and are adapted to align the inlay with markings on at least one of said first and second corneal surfaces.
51. (New) An inlay according to claim 45, wherein
said markings on said removable sheet are radial markings and are adapted to align with a positioning tool to facilitate proper positioning of the inlay on the first exposed corneal surface.
52. (New) An inlay according to claim 45, wherein
said inlay has markings thereon, said markings including include a mark on the center of the inlay and at least two radial axes extending from the center of the inlay in a direction toward the periphery of the inlay, and said markings are adapted to align with respective markings on the first exposed corneal surface.